

Strout Retiring As PHS Principal



ROY M. STROUT

Roy M. Strout, principal of Pittsfield High School for 34 years, said today he will retire at the end of the school year.

The 67-year-old educator announced his retirement at a meeting of the PHS faculty this afternoon.

Appointed in 1921

He was appointed to the post March 21, 1921, when the high school enrollment was 1,053 and the faculty numbered 44. The enrollment today is 1,434, but it surpassed the 2,000 mark in 1938-39 in the change from semi-annual to annual promotions. The faculty today numbers 91.

In 1931 the high school was moved from the now-abandoned Central Junior High School building to the million-dollar-plus East Street building. Mr. Strout had been forced to set up two-platoon sessions in 1928 as enrollment surpassed facilities. One of his happiest moments was the laying of the new school cornerstone in 1929.

Today PHS is again faced with growing pains, in its academic, technical and vocational divisions.

A native of Maine, Mr. Strout graduated from Bates College in 1911 and was named that fall to the principalship of Dexter (Maine) High School.

Coached in Maine

There he also taught mathematics and coached the main sports. After four years at Dexter, he went to South Portland (Maine) High School as teacher-principal.

His first assignment as a full-time administrator was to Danvers in 1919. Two years later, he came to Pittsfield to exceed by 20 years the previous record for any other PHS principal. The longest any of his predecessors served was the 14 years C. A. Byram was in the post (from 1881 to 1905).

He was elected president of the High School Principals' Assn. of Massachusetts, the first county principal to be so honored. In 1941, he received an honorary master of arts degree from his alma mater.

Mr. Strout has also been active in YMCA and Boy Scout work. He is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Pittsfield.

No Special Plans

He announced no special plans for his retirement, other than "just taking it easy for a while." Taking it easy is a fairly vigorous activity for Mr. Strout, an enthusiastic and able skier and fisherman.

Mr. and Mrs. Strout live at 34 Revere Pkwy. They have a son, David L. Strout, dean of the Kansas City Art Institute and School of Design, and a daughter, Mrs. William H. Allen of East Hebron, Maine.

Not Easy To Fill His Place

Some persons go along performing their duties so smoothly and capably that they are just taken for granted, and may not be fully appreciated until they relinquish their posts. Roy M. Strout, who is to retire this summer after serving for 34 years as principal of Pittsfield High, is that type of individual. To be principal of a school like Pittsfield High is a difficult job, but Mr. Strout has demonstrated his ability to arrange a sound program for the institution, and carry it out with a minimum of friction.

Mr. Strout did some coaching of athletic teams when he was principal of Dexter (Maine) High. Through the years, I noticed that Mr. Strout figured sports had a place in the system, but he wanted to make sure that the chief aim was to provide for the boys and girls a well-rounded education without too much emphasis being paid to the matter of wins and losses in games. Although he is 67 years old, he still enjoys fishing and skiing, which may account for the fact that he has stood so well the strain of his duties. I always have admired Mr. Strout, and I hope that in his retirement he will continue to live in Pittsfield as we do not want to lose such a fine citizen.

Dr. Edward J. Russell, superintendent of schools, is wise in suggesting that a year be taken to select a permanent successor to Mr. Strout as it will be difficult to find any man to fill the job as capably as he has done.

PHS Junior Class Honors Roy M. Strout, Retiring Principal



A traveling case, which will "come in handy because they're going to Alaska," was presented to Roy M. Strout, who will retire next month as principal of Pittsfield High School at the annual junior prom last night in the school gymnasium. Chris Gilson, class president, made the presentation to Mr. Strout, and Miss Nancy Shea of the prom committee presented an orchid to Mrs. Strout. Theme of the prom was "three coins in a fountain," and a large silver fountain still had only three coins at the close of the evening. Almost 400 attended event, which was followed by several after-prom parties. Large groups went to Crooked Lake Hotel, Morgan House, the Springs and Tod Morden.

Sir Edward Elgar's traditional class processional "Pomp and Circumstance" and Giacomo Meyerbeer's memorable glass recessional "Coronation March" will be played by the PHS Band, under the direction of Morton Wayne.